

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ROBERT STEVEN ROOT,

Defendant.

8:20CR142

**PRELIMINARY ORDER OF
FORFEITURE**

This matter is before the Court upon the United States of America's Motion for Preliminary Order of Forfeiture (Filing No. 30). The Court reviews the record in this case and, being duly advised in the premises, finds as follows:

1. Defendant Robert Steven Root, entered into a Plea Agreement (Filing No. 29) whereby he agreed to enter a plea of guilty to Count One of the Indictment and admit to the Forfeiture Allegation of the Indictment.
2. Count One charged the defendant with conspiring to distribute and possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1)(A) and 846.
3. The Forfeiture Allegation sought forfeiture of \$111,399 U.S. currency derived from proceeds obtained directly or indirectly as a result of the offenses and/or used to facilitate the offenses.
4. By virtue of said plea of guilty, defendant has forfeited this interest in the subject currency. Accordingly, the United States should be entitled to possession of said currency pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853.
5. The Motion for Preliminary Order of Forfeiture should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

A. The Motion for Preliminary Order of Forfeiture is hereby granted.

B. Based upon the Forfeiture Allegation of the Indictment and the plea of guilty, defendant's interest in the \$111,399 U.S. currency is hereby forfeited to the United States for disposition in accordance with the law, subject to the provisions of 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(1).

C. The United States is authorized to seize the \$111,399 U.S. currency and hold the currency in its secure custody and control.

D. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(1), the United States shall publish notice of this Preliminary Order of Forfeiture for at least thirty consecutive days on an official internet government forfeiture site, www.forfeiture.gov. The United States may also, to the extent practicable, provide direct written notice to any person known to have an interest in the currency.

E. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(2), such notice shall provide that any person, other than the defendant, having or claiming a legal interest in any of the property must file a petition with this Court within 30 days of the final publication of notice or of receipt of actual notice, whichever is earlier.

F. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(3), a petitioner must sign the petition under penalty of perjury and set forth the nature and extent of the petitioner's right, title or interest in the property and any additional facts supporting the petitioner's claim and the relief sought.

G. Upon adjudication of all third-party interests, this Court will enter a Final Order of Forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n), in which all interests will be addressed.

ORDERED this 30th day of December, 2020.

BY THE COURT:

s/ Joseph F. Bataillon
Senior United States District Judge